

**New England MIRECC Peer Education Center  
Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital  
200 Spring Road, Bedford, MA 01730**

**Psychosocial Rehabilitation & Peer Support Presentation**

**Presenters: Mark Parker, BA, Certified Peer Specialist  
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**Group Discussion Vignettes**

**PSR Vignette #1:**

You meet a Veteran named Bob for the first time. Bob introduces himself to you by saying, “I’m a schizophrenic drug addict.”

**Question for Vignette #1:**

1. What are some PSR recovery-oriented responses you could give to Bob’s introduction?

**PSR Vignette #2:**

Tina is a Veteran you are working with in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) treatment program. Tina often tells you how unhappy she is with all of the rules and structure of the community residence (group home) where she currently lives. Tina tells you that she wants to live in her own apartment. When this issue is discussed in the program’s team meeting, you hear other staff say, “She’s not ready to live in her own place,” and “She won’t be able to handle it.”

**Questions for Vignette #2:**

1. What are some recovery-oriented interventions you could try with Tina in this situation?
2. What are some recovery-oriented interventions you could try with the staff?

**Peer Support Vignette #1:**

Jay is a Veteran who is currently attending a VA substance abuse treatment program after completing a recent detox associated with his alcohol abuse. Jay is currently experiencing a lot of challenges in his personal life. His wife told him that unless Jay

makes certain changes, she will file for divorce and pursue sole custody of their two young children. This could lead to legal issues for Jay around child support payments which would be difficult because Jay is currently unemployed. He recently lost his engineering job because of his substance abuse problems. He is beginning to feel more hopeless with each passing day. Jay talks to you about his concerns and wonders how you, as a VA peer support specialist, could help him.

Questions for Vignette #3:

1. What are some recovery-oriented peer support interventions you could try with Jay?
2. What PSR services could you refer Jay to?

**Peer Support Vignette #2:**

Sandra is an OIF/OEF/OND Veteran. At a recent outreach event, she learned about your VA facility's peer support services and was given your contact information as one of the facility's peer support specialists. Sandra comes to see you and asks you questions about services available to women at the facility. Sandra discloses that while serving in the Army, she experienced military sexual trauma and did not report it. She says that she feels down and somewhat uncertain of her future. Sandra tells you that she has not enrolled in VA health care services previously because she is nervous about receiving care in a predominantly male health care system. She worries that being in such an environment might trigger issues around her experiences of military sexual trauma. During the conversation, Sandra also mentions that she heard a little about the Post-9/11 GI Bill and wonders who might be able to give her more information. She wonders if she has the aptitude for something like psychology or family counseling, but she is not sure what her GI Bill benefits include.

Questions for Vignette #4:

1. What are some recovery-oriented peer support interventions you could try with Sandra?
2. What PSR services could you refer Sandra to?